

## **"EXISTENCE AND NATURE OF GOD"**

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*"Your faith does not rest on the latest argument by the best philosopher that came out yesterday...your faith rests on what you know to be true by your commitment to Christ. The arguments and reasons are part of the puzzle; they give you reinforcement as to why you believe."*

### 1. Attributes of God

*"One of the greatest paradoxes of believing that everyone is part of God is that most people don't realize it...if you were God, wouldn't you know it? Being omniscient and not knowing it is a really big problem."*

#### a. Creator and sustainer (of all else that exists)

- i. "Who made God?" misses the point
- ii. Acts 17:25; Colossians 1:16; Romans 11:36

#### b. Omnipotent: All-powerful

- i. Nonsense question: "Can God make a rock so big that he cannot lift it?"

*"Omnipotence does not mean that God can do anything that you can string together in words. Stringing together things in words may not be anything that is actually even possible...For example, God cannot make a married bachelor...but that doesn't count against God. If it is not a thing that is conceptually possible, then God cannot do it."*

- ii. Things that God cannot do:

- 1. Make square circles or married bachelors (nonsensical things)
- 2. Sin, lie, cease to exist (things that go against his perfection)

*"Neither do we lessen God's power when we say that he cannot die or be deceived. This is the kind of inability, which, if removed, would make God less powerful than he is. It is precisely because he is omnipotent that some things are impossible." ~ St. Augustine*

#### c. Omniscient: All-knowing

- i. Knows past, present, and future
- ii. Psalm 139:17-18; Isaiah 46:10; Isaiah 41:21-24

#### d. Disembodied: Spirit

- i. Everywhere: Aware of everything and sustains everything

- ii. Nowhere: Transcends time and space
  - e. Necessary: Cannot *not* exist
  - f. Rational Agent: A person or being
2. The Existence of God
- a. God's existence is not dependent on us
    - i. Our belief in him does not make God real
    - ii. He exists independently of our minds
  - b. We cannot observe God in his fullness

3. Arguments for the Existence of God

*"To present an argument to those who do not believe...is not saying that in order for you to believe you must have an argument. There are numerous people on this planet who are perfectly rational for believing in God who are not philosophers."*

- a. Transcendental Argument
  - i. Atheistic/naturalistic worldview
    - 1. Only physical things exist—no soul, mind, or morality
    - 2. Human beings are the result of blind chance and evolution
  - ii. Theistic Christian worldview
    - 1. Physical and non-physical things exist—morality, minds, souls, numbers
    - 2. While physical things change, non-physical things do not—e.g. logic
  - iii. If your mind is the result of blind chance, how can you trust your own mind?
 

*"If you knew that a computer had software downloaded at random, would you buy that computer? No...because you know it wouldn't give you true information. Your mind, according to the naturalistic worldview, is not only physical, but the result of chance and survival of the fittest...it may be that we've survived as the result of us not knowing the truth about the world. Maybe our minds lie to us and that helps us survive. How do you know that you know anything? In an atheistic worldview, you have no assurance of even knowledge itself."*
  - iv. Evil only makes sense if there is an objective good

b. Kalam Cosmological Argument



i. No beginning vs. beginning

1. Big Bang Theory: something came from nothing
2. Second Law of Thermodynamics: Universe is moving toward heat death
3. Actual Infinite: unlimited set
  - a. Logically impossible
  - b. If the past were infinite, we couldn't be here today

ii. Uncaused vs. caused

1. If the universe were uncaused, then it would have always existed
2. An actual infinite is logically impossible

iii. Unintentional vs. intentional

4. Conceptually Possible vs. Logically Impossible

- a. Miracles are both conceptually and logically possible
  - i. Virgin birth
  - ii. Prior to the 1900s—flying an airplane
- b. Nonsense is neither conceptually nor logically possible